



**United States Department of Agriculture**  
**National Agricultural Statistics Service**  
**FLORIDA CROP PROGRESS &**  
**CONDITION REPORT**



In cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the UF/IFAS Extension Service  
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Released: March 4, 2016 (4 PM EST)
Week Ending: February 28, 2016

**Weather Summary:** According to Florida's Automated Weather Network (FAWN), rainfall ranged from 0.01 of an inch in Bronson, (Levy County), to 4.38 inches in De Funiak (Walton County). Most FAWN stations reported 0.53 inch of received rainfall for the week. As per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated February 23, 2016, Florida was rated totally drought free. Strong storms brought additional rain in Holmes County.

Temperatures ranged from 29 degrees in Mayo (Lafayette County) for a State nighttime low, to 86 degrees in Fort Lauderdale (Broward County) for a State daytime high.

**Soil Moisture Ratings**

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Current Week	Previous week	Previous year
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	0	0	0
Short.....	7	6	21
Adequate .....	60	61	74
Surplus .....	33	33	5

**Field Crops:** There was an average of 6.1 days suitable for field work this past week, compared to 6.2 days last week. Some land preparation continued in Washington County, but Tuesday rains slowed efforts in some locations. Sugarcane harvest continued but delays caused by wet weather will result in harvest running late possibly into June which will affect next year's crop.

**Fruit and Vegetables:** Some Dixie County watermelon fields were seeded. Watermelon transplant preparation was underway in Suwannee County. Strawberries, onions, broccoli cabbage, and other cool season vegetables were harvested in Bradford and Flagler counties. Irish potatoes were planted in Flagler and Putnam counties. South Florida vegetable crops were heavily impacted by the cold and wet weather conditions the past 8 weeks with yields on many items off by 30 to 50 percent. Also disease has been rampant increasing fungicide applications and increasing production costs dramatically. Miami-Dade County crops harvested included green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, sweet corn, tomato, eggplant, pepper, herbs, boniata, Malanga, avocado, and other tropical fruits.

**Citrus:** Temperatures were on the cooler side most of the week. Most morning lowers were in the 40s and warmed up during the day to the 60s and lower 70s. A couple high temperatures early in the week reached the lower 80s. Rainfall was light across most of the citrus belt this week. Half of the monitored rainfall stations had less than an half of an inch of rainfall. Of the remaining monitored stations, only two had more than an inch of rainfall for the week.

Harvesting of the non-Valencia oranges was relatively over for the season. Processing plants and packing houses have switched to Valencia oranges. Honey tangerine harvest was lagging this season. Temples were being harvested as Royal tangerines and were doing well in the fresh market. There were still plenty of red and white grapefruit groves that have been spot picked and are being cleaned for both the fresh and processed market.

Orange trees were beginning to hit the peak of their bloom season. Most have open flowers and are starting to form new fruit for next season's crop. Caretakers were busy with hedging and topping programs. Irrigation was being turned back on in areas that have received little rainfall over the past few weeks. Other grove activities included fertilizing and general grove maintenance.

**Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested**

[In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes]

Crop	For week ending:		
	Feb 14, 2016	Feb 21, 2016	Feb 28, 2016
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-Oranges .....	1,635	135	59
Navel Oranges .....	4	2	1
Valencia Oranges.....	454	411	2,127
Red Grapefruit.....	548	478	513
White Grapefruit.....	269	230	171
Honey Tangerines.....	29	23	23
Sunburst Tangerines.....	8	30	14
Tangelos .....	9	3	0
Temples .....	21	41	37
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>2,977</b>	<b>1,353</b>	<b>2,945</b>

**Livestock and Pastures:** Walton and Dixie county pastures were rated poor due to frost and flooding in some areas. Winter grazing pasture problems were reported in Taylor and Putnam counties due to warm weather at the beginning of the planting season. South Florida cattle producers were feeding supplements to augment scarce available pasture forage. Ranchers hoped for warmer weather and increasing daylight times to boost pasture forage.

**Cattle and Pasture Condition**

Condition	Cattle		Pasture/Range	
	Current week	Previous week	Current week	Previous week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor .....	0	0	5	5
Poor .....	6	6	22	20
Fair .....	30	25	37	37
Good .....	57	62	27	35
Excellent .....	7	7	9	3

**Florida's Automated Weather Network (FAWN), Precipitation and Rainfall by Station**

FAWN Station	County	District	Monday, February 22 to Sunday, February 28, 2016		
			Minimum Temp.	Maximum Temp.	Rainfall (inches)
Carrabelle	Franklin	10	31.89	69.60	0.78
De Funiak	Walton	10	31.15	74.23	4.38
Jay	Santa Rosa	10	32.66	70.74	2.33
Marianna	Jackson	10	33.52	77.63	0.40
Monticello	Jefferson	10	33.03	78.04	1.09
Quincy	Gadsden	10	29.83	77.43	0.28
Live Oak	Suwannee	30	31.44	81.30	0.07
MacClenny	Baker	30	30.68	82.13	0.32
Mayo	Lafayette	30	28.74	80.08	0.18
Alachua	Alachua	50	31.38	81.03	0.51
Apopka	Orange	50	40.34	79.70	0.66
Avalon	Orange	50	42.66	81.43	0.27
Balm	Hillsborough	50	39.91	80.26	0.85
Bronson	Levy	50	33.89	82.49	0.01
Citra	Marion	50	31.28	81.52	0.26
Dade City	Pasco	50	37.25	80.10	0.17
Dover	Hillsborough	50	37.49	82.22	1.01
Frostproof	Polk	50	40.69	80.33	0.24
Hastings	St. Johns	50	36.54	82.90	0.46
Kenansville	Osceola	50	37.51	81.37	0.12
Lake Alfred	Polk	50	44.05	82.47	0.75
Lecanto	Citrus	50	29.07	82.47	0.42
Ocklawaha	Marion	50	38.47	82.74	0.24
Okahumpka	Lake	50	34.98	81.16	0.10
Pierson	Volusia	50	34.62	83.34	0.26
Putnam Hall	Putnam	50	33.03	80.71	0.53
Umatilla	Lake	50	34.50	81.10	0.05
Arcadia	De Soto	80	40.38	82.18	1.37
Belle Glade	Palm Beach	80	44.41	83.03	0.41
Clewiston	Hendry	80	41.38	84.34	0.24
Fort Lauderdale	Broward	80	50.68	85.55	0.52
Homestead	Miami-Dade	80	47.30	83.71	0.61
Immokalee	Collier	80	41.10	81.57	0.28
Indian River	Indian River	80	42.44	79.32	0.38
Joshua	De Soto	80	37.21	80.17	0.90
North Port	Sarasota	80	41.06	81.66	0.71
Okeechobee	Okeechobee	80	41.81	81.86	0.83
Ona	Hardee	80	39.62	81.63	0.53
Palmdale	Glades	80	43.33	82.08	0.41
Sebring	Highlands	80	42.58	82.69	0.67
St. Lucie West	St Lucie	80	42.41	82.17	0.85
Wellington	W.Palm Beach	80	44.74	84.15	0.47

This report is available, at no cost, on the NASS web site: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Florida/Publications/Crop\\_Progress\\_&\\_Condition/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/). To set-up this free subscription, send e-mail message to [listserv@newsbox.usda.gov](mailto:listserv@newsbox.usda.gov) and in the body, type "subscribe to Florida crop weather." The drought monitor index used in this report originates from the U.S. Drought Monitor website. Visit <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu> maintained by the National Drought Mitigation Center. The precipitation and temperature data used in this report originates from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Visit <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu> maintained by UF/IFAS Information